

Emergency Support Function – No. 12
ENERGY

Primary Agency:

Virginia Department of Emergency
Management (VDEM)

Support Agencies and Organizations:

- Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)
- Dominion Virginia Power Company
- State Corporation Commission (SCC)
- Virginia Electric Cooperatives
- Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12 – Energy is assigned with coordinating the restoration of damaged energy systems and components during an emergency incident.

in responding to an energy emergency such as an extended power outage or gasoline shortage.

The primary responsibilities of ESF #12 in such an event are:

Scope

ESF #12 collects, evaluates, and shares information on damaged energy systems and estimates the impact within the affected areas. The term “energy” includes producing, refining, transporting, generating, transmitting, conserving, building, distributing, and maintaining energy systems and system components. Additionally, ESF #12 provides information concerning the energy restoration process such as projected schedules, restoration timelines, geographic information on the restoration, and other information as appropriate.

- A. To direct and control state-level energy supply related emergency operations on behalf of the Governor; and
- B. To keep the public informed about the on-going situation. Coordinate with the private sector whose primary responsibility is to repair damage and re-establish commercial and industrial energy systems as soon as possible.

The energy industry has four sectors: natural gas, electric power, petroleum fuels and solid fuels (coal). This annex is organized by the four energy sectors.

Organization

- A. The private sector will be relied upon to manage independently until it can no longer do so, or until the health, safety, and welfare of citizens are at risk. The industries will be expected to establish their own emergency plans and procedures and to implement them through their own proprietary systems.
- B. The SCC is the designated commodity manager for Natural gas and electric power.
- C. The DMME is the commodity manager for petroleum products and solid fuels (primarily coal).

Mission

The mission of ESF #12 is to detail the duties and responsibilities of Commonwealth agencies and outline the concept of operations to be used

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- D. In the event of a potential or actual energy shortage, the SCC and DMME will, as requested by the Governor and in coordination with the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT), implement voluntary and/or involuntary conservation measures as appropriate and allowable by law.

If the energy supply situation worsens and a state of emergency is declared, mandatory conservation measures may be required. The SCC and DMME will then provide technical assistance and staff support to the VERT as requested.

- E. Following a catastrophic disaster, the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), with staff support from SCC and DMME, will coordinate the provision of emergency power and fuel to affected jurisdictions to support immediate response operations. They will work closely with federal energy officials, other Commonwealth support agencies, and energy suppliers and distributors. During emergency incidents designated SCC and related state agency personnel report through the VERT for coordination of emergency response activities.

Policies

- A. Restoration of normal operations at energy facilities is the responsibility of the facility owners.
- B. ESF #12 maintains lists of energy-centric critical assets and infrastructures, and continuously monitors those resources to identify and correct vulnerabilities to energy infrastructure.
- C. ESF #12 addresses significant disruptions in energy supplies, whether caused by physical disruption of energy transmission and distribution systems, unexpected operational failure of such systems, or unusual economic or political events.

- D. ESF #12 addresses the impact that damage to an energy system in one geographic region may have on energy supplies, systems, and components in other regions. Consequently, energy supply and transportation problems can be intrastate, interstate, and/or international.

Concept of Operations

General:

ESF #12 will respond to the VEOC when an incident has or threatens to disrupt the routine energy production and distribution networks. ESF #12 will implement standard procedures and coordinate actions to assist local governments. While restoration of normal operations at energy production and distribution facilities is the primary responsibility of the owners of those facilities, ESF #12 provides the appropriate supplemental assistance and resources to enable restoration in a timely manner.

Collectively, the primary and support agencies that comprise ESF #12:

- A. Serve as the focal point within the Commonwealth for receipt of information on actual or potential damage to energy supply and distribution systems; requirements for system design and operations; and on procedures for preparedness, prevention, recovery, and restoration, to include:
1. Advise state and local authorities on priorities for energy restoration, assistance, and supply;
 2. Assist industry and local authorities with requests for emergency response actions as they pertain to energy supplies;
 3. Assist state and local agencies by locating fuel for transportation, communications, and emergency operations;

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4. Recommend actions to conserve fuel and electric power; and
5. Provide energy supply information and guidance on the conservation and efficient use of energy to state agencies, local governments and the public.

9. Recommend to the Governor's Office priorities to aid in the restoration of damaged energy systems.

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B. Available state-level assets may be used to assist local Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) with their efforts to address emergency fuel, power and other essential resources. Tasks may include:

1. Provide for the health and safety of individuals and families affected by the event.
2. Process fuel and power assistance requests from local EOCs.
3. Recommend local and state actions to conserve fuel, as needed.
4. Provide sufficient fuel supplies to Commonwealth agencies, emergency response organizations, and fuel dispensing points (retail and governmental).
5. Provide technical assistance involving energy system operations.
6. Help energy suppliers obtain information, equipment, specialized labor, fuel, and transportation necessary to repair or restore energy systems.
7. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies in providing energy emergency information, education and conservation guidance to the public.
8. Coordinate information with local, state, and federal officials and energy suppliers about available energy supply recovery assistance.

Section 1 Natural Gas

Mission

To assign responsibilities and provide the organization and procedures required to ensure that maximum advance warning will be provided of a potential critical shortage of natural gas; and that in a shortage situation, the distribution and use of available natural gas will be consistent with state priorities of providing for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Organization

Close coordination with federal and state agencies, natural gas suppliers, and distribution companies will be needed to monitor the adequacy of the supply and distribution of natural gas. The Governor, VEOC, state agencies, and local government will be kept informed of the developing situation and of emergency actions required. Local gas distribution companies will also keep local authorities informed of any potential or actual shortages.

Concept of Operations

- A. The economy of the state, and the health and safety of its citizens are heavily dependent upon an adequate and uninterrupted supply of natural gas.
- B. Most natural gas must be brought in from outside sources through interstate transmission companies that supply gas to Virginia.
- C. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) makes and administers the rules for the equitable allocation of natural gas at the federal level when the supply is insufficient to meet the demand. In accordance with their authority, it is FERC policy to adjust natural gas curtailments to ensure "the protection of deliveries for the residential and small-volume consumers who cannot be curtailed on a daily basis, and to require instead reduction in deliveries for large-volume interruptible sales". Assistance and guidance can be obtained from FERC with respect to problems involving interstate gas supplies and other matters pertaining to their authority.
- D. The Federal Department of Energy (DOE) manages all interstate aspects of an energy crisis. In an energy emergency, the DOE may provide personnel to the VEOC for federal interagency coordination, state and local government liaison, and integrate contingency measures.
- E. The DMME will implement information gathering systems to monitor and forecast national and local natural gas demands and available supplies.
- F. The SCC will manage available resources within state priorities so the effects of a shortage will be minimized.

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- G. The SCC, under the Code of Virginia, has the authority to allocate supplies between distributor companies within the state to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Also, the SCC's "Natural Gas Priorities and Rules" establishes an emergency coordination committee to facilitate transfers of gas between companies operating within Virginia.
- H. The SCC's "Natural Gas Priorities and Rules" also establishes the order in which categories of customers can be curtailed when supplies are insufficient to serve firm requirements. This plan establishes curtailment priority classifications for all firm customers.

Duties and Responsibilities

A. The State Corporation Commission will:

1. Monitor natural gas supplies, including establishing alert points where increased emergency preparedness would be taken.
2. Provide liaison with federal agencies and the natural gas industry to provide the earliest possible warning of shortages.
3. Develop and maintain priorities and rules for curtailment and allocation procedures.
4. Develop and maintain priorities and rules for voluntary and mandatory conservation procedures.
5. Develop and maintain procedures for special hardship appeals of curtailment and conservation procedures.
6. Assist with the legal interpretations of all orders as requested by the VEOC.
7. Assist natural gas users to obtain alternate supplies.
8. Provide guidance to DEM as to the extent of shortages, as a basis of recommending to the Department of Environmental Quality the need to temporarily waive air pollution control regulations to allow industrial boilers and furnaces to switch to less clean, heavy oil products.
9. Be prepared to request cooperation from railroads in expediting movement of propane cars, both empty and loaded.
10. Keep the public fully informed on all matters pertaining to a natural gas shortage.

B. Local government will:

1. Include measures dealing with a natural gas shortage in their resource plan.
2. Notify the Department of Social Services when their citizens are unable to purchase natural gas because of a lack of funds.
3. Request all assistance relating to natural gas supplies from the State Corporation Commission.
4. Request all other assistance relating to problems caused by natural gas shortages from VDEM.

References:

- A. Commonwealth of Virginia, State Corporation Commission, Natural Gas Priorities and Rules.
- B. Tri-State Coordinating Committee on Resource Shortages, Washington Gas Light Company Regional Alert Plan.

Section 2 Electric Power

Mission

To assign responsibilities, and provide the organization and procedures required to ensure the maximum advance warning will be provided for any shortage of generating capacity or fuel supply. In a shortage situation, the distribution and use of available electricity will be consistent with state priorities of providing for the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of the citizens.

Organization

The SCC in coordination with federal agencies, other state agencies, and the electric power industry will monitor the adequacy of generating capacity and fuel supplies. ESF 12, through the VERT will keep the Governor, appropriate state agencies, and the electric power industry informed of the developing situation and of possible emergency actions that may be required.

Concept of Operations

- A. Privately-owned, Cooperatives, and Municipal utilities provide service to residents of Virginia. (Dominion Virginia Power and the Appalachian Power Company are the state's two largest electric generating companies and together account for more than 90 percent of electricity sales.)
- B. Electricity is produced by using several types of fuel. A shortage of any one of the primary fuels could impact the availability of other fuels, and also could affect the adequacy of electricity supply in the Commonwealth.
- C. Capacity deficiency emergencies are usually caused by a failure of some portion of the bulk power system, either at the generating station or in the transmission network. These may be caused by isolated situations to catastrophic natural disasters.
- D. Fuel shortage emergencies are different in that the available generating equipment is capable of sustaining the system load, but the primary fuel is not available.
- E. A prolonged shortage of electricity could have the following adverse impacts on the state through selective load shedding and enforced conservation measures:
 - 1. Impair the provision of services essential for health and safety.
 - 2. Require reduced hours of operation of all sectors of the economy.
 - 3. Cause unemployment.
 - 4. Reduce travel and tourism.

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F. Response Capabilities

1. The interconnection of utilities inside and outside of Virginia permits, to a degree, the transfer of power to meet unusual demands either from capacity deficiencies or a localized fuel shortage. The utilities have on file, at the SCC, emergency service restoration plans for response to capacity deficiency emergencies from natural disasters.
2. The power generating companies also have load shedding plans which reduce demand and energy consumption, first by voluntary conservation, then by predetermined selective load shedding. Load Shedding Plans are primarily designed to be implemented in capacity deficiency emergencies requiring a fast drop in load levels to prevent the failure of the system. Each utility has a specific and detailed plan of how to drop portions of its load in order to prevent uncontrolled loss of the system. The components of a typical Load Shedding Plan are described here:
 - a. Should it become necessary to curtail electricity usage, the utilities in Virginia will implement their electric energy emergency conservation plans, which are on file with the State Corporation Commission. These emergency procedures will be put into operation when the public health, safety, and welfare are threatened.
 - b. Curtailment Procedures - If voluntary and mandatory conservation actions do not sufficiently reduce the use of electricity, then electricity supplies may be cut off to certain users in order to preserve electricity for higher priority users. All or any of the following actions may be taken by the Governor, upon a declaration of a state of emergency, to conserve electricity. The discontinuation of electricity could include places of amusement, non-essential public places, schools not being used for sheltering, commercial wholesale and retail establishments, and office buildings not engaged in public safety and welfare.
 - c. In a severe shortage situation, upon the declaration of a state of emergency, the Governor may allocate or regulate the sale, distribution, and use of all electricity available within the state. Mandatory conservation measures for residential, governmental, commercial, and industrial users may also be instituted as needed.

- G. The SCC will regulate the utilities' management of their available resources so that the effects of a shortage will be minimized.

Duties and Responsibilities

A. State Corporation Commission

1. Monitor utility fuel supplies and reserves, including establishing alert points where increased emergency preparations would be taken.
2. Provide liaison with federal agencies and the electric power industry to provide the earliest possible warning of shortages.
3. Monitor power supply and demand during critical periods.
4. Develop and maintain priorities and rules for curtailment procedures.

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5. In situations, where widespread system infrastructure damage occurs, the SCC will work with utilities to implement a restoration strategy.
6. Develop and maintain voluntary and mandatory conservation procedures to be implemented during a shortage.
7. Develop and maintain procedures for special hardship appeals of curtailment and conservation orders.
8. Assist with the legal interpretations of all orders as requested by the VEOC.
9. Keep the public fully informed on all matters pertaining to an electric power shortage.

B. Local Governments

1. Include measures dealing with an electricity shortage in their resource plans.
2. Notify the state Department of Social Services when their citizens are unable to purchase electricity because of a lack of funds, after local resources have been expended.
3. Request all other assistance relating to an electricity shortage from the state Department of Emergency Management.
4. Coordinate the implementation of state voluntary and mandatory programs within their jurisdictions.

Section 3 Petroleum Products

Mission

To provide for the citizens of the Commonwealth in a reasonable and responsible manner when disaster strikes and gasoline, home heating oil, or other petroleum fuel supply systems suddenly fail resulting in a threat to health and safety; to be capable of immediate collaboration with energy providers to help direct critical supplies to priority locations and restore supply and distribution systems as soon as possible; and to cooperate with the federal government to recommend, encourage, and, under extreme conditions, mandate appropriate conservation measures until market forces can reestablish a working balance between supply and demand.

Organization

The DMME will communicate with petroleum industry contacts to gather available information about developing emergency supply and demand situations. In the event of an actual shortage, the Commonwealth, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Office of Energy Emergencies will communicate with citizens, government, businesses, and industry to support the implementation of needed conservation measures.

The State Coordinator may activate the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and the Governor may also declare a state of emergency. Additional voluntary and perhaps some mandatory conservation measures may be needed. DMME will support the VEOC with contact and resource information as needed.

Depending on the nature of the energy emergency, selected representatives from the private sector may be invited to serve in an advisory capacity in areas where their particular expertise applies.

Concept of Operations

Petroleum is widely used throughout Virginia. Transportation is primarily fueled by petroleum. Other petroleum products are used for space heating, industrial processes, and electric generation. Propane is used in Virginia for industrial, agricultural, transportation, and residential uses. Almost all petroleum products must be brought in from outside sources.

- A. A variety of circumstances could cause serious international, national, statewide or area shortages of petroleum products with little advance warning. These include:
 - 1. An embargo by one or more oil-producing nations.
 - 2. International tension that might impact ocean shipping.
 - 3. The blockage of waterways, railways or roadways by icing, flooding or other circumstances.

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4. An extended period of extremely cold weather which would increase demands for refined products for residential, commercial, and industrial heating above forecasted requirements.
 5. Production downtime at major refineries.
 6. Poor distribution of supplies within industry distribution systems. Spot shortages may occur with middle distillates and propane in winter due to inadequate pipeline capacity, pipeline failures, pipeline allocation limits, and surface transportation problems. Spot shortages of gasoline or kerosene may occur due to various problems such as pipeline disruptions or the need to supply multiple products to the marketplace, such as reformulated gasoline, to certain areas of the state.
- B. A significant shortage of petroleum products could have the following adverse impacts on the Commonwealth:
1. Require reduced hours of operation for schools, businesses and industry.
 2. Cause substantial unemployment.
 3. Prevent the distribution of essential supplies and the provision of services essential to health and safety.
 4. Cause a reduction in the production of electric power.
 5. Present a health hazard as a result of cold homes and a shortage of home cooking fuels.
 6. A gasoline and diesel fuel shortage could have a serious impact on the economy of the Commonwealth.
- C. This plan relies on a cooperative partnership between government agencies and private industry. DMME will coordinate a network of contacts between industry and government to help ensure an efficient state response to a petroleum fuel supply shortage or disruption. Information about the network of contacts will be included in the separately published Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook.
- D. The overall federal/state strategy for responding to a petroleum emergency is to:
1. Allow market principles to guide action to the maximum extent possible.
 2. Implement energy conservation measures to reduce demand as needed and in accordance with federal law (Public Law 94-163 of 1975, Section 362), initially on a voluntary basis, and later on a mandatory basis, if necessary (This action is under federal control).
 3. The Federal Strategic Petroleum Reserve will be released only under extreme circumstances when important national issues are at stake. (This action is under federal control.)

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E. Information Gathering

DMME will keep a list of petroleum product contacts in the Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook. These contacts will be used during a period of emergency to help monitor the supply of petroleum products. During a potential or actual energy emergency, monitoring activities would be implemented so that the most appropriate response can be made. DMME will use information from other sources such as the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, and other state agencies to assess any potential shortage situation. This information may include:

1. Information regarding supply disruptions or product shortages.
2. Current world oil production compared to prior years production.
3. Virginia prices for gasoline, propane, and distillate fuels.
4. Spot market prices for petroleum.
5. Domestic crude oil and product supply balance.
6. Information from the Virginia Department of Social Services on emergency fuel needs for low-income citizens (Local social services offices report on families and individuals needing assistance.)

F. Conservation Measures

1. If requested by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Governor, or; if conditions warrant, DMME can directly appeal for voluntary conservation measures to stretch the available supplies and reduce unnecessary petroleum use. DMME will coordinate conservation measures in advance with DOE and the Governor's Office, through the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the VEOC.
2. As the situation grows more acute, the Governor may declare a state of emergency in order to direct the VEOC to implement additional voluntary and selected mandatory conservation measures.
3. As a last resort, the VEOC will recommend to the Governor the implementation of the State Set-Aside Program.
 - a. Under Virginia's Set-Aside Program, major oil companies will be asked during shortage months to reserve one to three percent of their total supply of gasoline, kerosene, diesel, or No. 2 heating oil for reallocation and delivery to assist with essential needs as identified by the Governor. An energy supply emergency may be a critical reduction in supply either in an area of the state or in the state as a whole.
 - b. The procedures will be activated in the event that a petroleum products shortage results in a reduction in supply of ten percent or more, either in an area of the Commonwealth or in the Commonwealth as a whole. The VEOC would direct the

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major oil companies to hold in reserve a small percentage (one to three percent) of their total supply of petroleum products for Virginia during the shortage months. The VEOC would then determine the volume of releases and the manner of distribution depending upon the severity of the shortage and the extent of the shortage geographically.

4. All conservation strategies shall be coordinated with the U.S. Department of Energy and with the Governors, and commodity managers of neighboring states and the District of Columbia. The list of these contacts shall be kept in the Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook.
5. In the event of a severe and prolonged shortage, the governor may "control, restrict, allocate, or regulate the use, sale, production, and distribution" of any or all petroleum products within Virginia in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000, as amended. Mandatory conservation measures for residential, governmental, commercial, and industrial users may also be instituted as needed.

Duties and Responsibilities

A. Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

DMME's goal is to assist the marketplace in distribution of petroleum products. In doing so, it will take the following actions:

1. In the event of a shortage:
 - a. Receive requests from fuel oil suppliers, transporters, or trade associations to implement vehicle weight and driver hours of service waivers. Communicate these requests to VDEM, who will coordinate implementation of the waivers with VDOT, the State Police, and the federal government, and communicate news about the issuance of these waivers to the petroleum distribution industry.
 - b. Coordinate with trade associations to share information and prepare needs assessments.
2. Maintain current contact information with the petroleum product and propane distribution and delivery industry.
3. Provide data regarding supplies and use of petroleum products obtained from:
 - a. U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration,
 - b. Virginia Energy Patterns and Trends web site,
 - c. Other sources as necessary.
4. Coordinate regional contacts. Renew contacts with key contacts annually or more often as needed.
 - a. DOE Region III Philadelphia Support Office
 - b. Neighboring Jurisdictions - District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina

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c. Metro DC Council of Governments

5. Maintain ready-to-go guidance materials to assist State government facility managers responding to a petroleum products energy emergency.
6. Be prepared to advise the Governor during an energy emergency. The Governor will direct conservation measures and other actions, usually as recommended by federal guidance, through the DMME or, in the event of a state of emergency, through the VEOC.
7. Develop and maintain the Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook, to include key contacts in government and industry, ready-to-go press releases, and other guidance materials for implementing voluntary and mandatory conservation measures.
8. Assist and provide technical expertise as needed to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and to the VEOC during an energy emergency.

B. Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

1. Implement voluntary and mandatory energy conservation measures once the Governor has declared a “state of emergency.”

C. State Corporation Commission

1. Acting as the interstate pipeline agent, the SCC will coordinate with pipeline companies, other states, and Federal/State emergency agencies regarding product disruptions resulting from pipeline distribution and/or system failures. Additionally, the SCC shall be the clearinghouse on communications with pipeline company officials and emergency response agencies regarding the status of the emergency and the current condition of the pipeline.

D. Local Governments

1. Include measures dealing with a petroleum product shortage in their energy plan.
2. Notify DMME and the VEOC when their citizens are unable to obtain petroleum products from local dealers.
3. Request all other assistance relating to petroleum product shortages through the VEOC.
4. Be prepared to provide mass care in heated buildings for citizens who are temporarily without home heating fuels.
5. Coordinate the implementation of state voluntary and mandatory conservation and emergency management programs within their jurisdictions.

REFERENCES

- A. Public Law 94-163 of 1975, Section 362.

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- B. Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000, as amended.
- C. Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook.

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Tab A

Monitoring Procedures

In the event that a shortage of any fuel appears possible in the near future, DMME will institute monitoring activities for petroleum products, primarily gasoline and other distillate fuel. DMME in conjunction with the VEOC will:

- A. Establish regular telephone communications with Virginia's petroleum product trade associations. The object of these contacts will be to receive advance notice of jobber and dealer difficulties in obtaining supplies.
- B. Establish contact with SCC in order to receive and share information regarding interstate pipeline distribution system disruptions and emergencies. The SCC will communicate with officials of the pipeline companies on situations where actual or prospective failures may impact established delivery schedules and allocations of pipeline space.
- C. Analyze the petroleum supply situation and brief the Coordinator of Emergency Management whenever a significant change appears to have occurred.
- D. Contact the major oil companies through the Virginia Petroleum Council and request their cooperation and assistance in bringing additional fuel into the state as needed.
- E. Keep utilities informed through the SCC of developments in the situation to facilitate provisions for assistance from them.
- F. Monitor principal transportation bottlenecks reported by the oil companies and jobbers.

Note: For additional information, reference the Petroleum Products and Coal Energy Emergency Handbook.

Section 4 Solid Fuels (Coal)

Mission

To provide for the citizens of the Commonwealth in a reasonable and responsible manner when disaster strikes and solid fuel supply systems suddenly fail resulting in a threat to health and safety. Be capable of immediate collaboration with energy providers to help restore supply and distribution systems as soon as possible. Cooperate with the federal government to recommend, encourage, and, under extreme conditions, mandate appropriate measures until market forces can reestablish a working balance between supply and demand, maintain the economic viability of the Commonwealth, and provide for the health, safety, and well-being of its citizens.

Organization

Procedures will be established to receive information from coal users about potential or actual coal shortages in a timely manner, and in coordination with the VEOC, rapidly cope with these shortages. Coordinate with federal and other state agencies, manufacturer, utility, transportation and coal trade associations or companies, and the SCC to identify developing coal supply or distribution problems. DMME will make recommendations to the VEOC which will work closely with other state agencies and commodity managers that have coal-related responsibilities keeping them advised of potential or actual coal shortages. Prior to making decisions or recommending specific courses of action regarding coal, the impact and consequences on other energy resources should be considered. The VEOC will keep the Governor informed of impending shortages and will make recommendations with respect to emergency measures.

Depending on the nature of the energy emergency, selected representatives from the private sector will be invited to serve in an advisory capacity in areas where their particular expertise applies.

Concept of Operations

- A. Most Virginia electric generating utilities and some independent power producers use coal. These plants normally maintain reserve supplies of coal. A shortage of coal will result in the need to implement electric power conservation programs initially and more stringent control measures later as coal stocks are reduced. See the Virginia Energy Emergency Plan for Electricity.
- B. There are a number of coal-burning industries in Virginia. Individual industrial companies normally maintain reserve supplies of coal. A prolonged coal supply or railroad disruption would rapidly deplete available coal stocks and potentially result in increased unemployment. This could also result in an increased reliance on liquid fuels and transport by truck, which could lead to increased energy cost.
- C. In many instances, supplies are purchased to meet requirements on a regular basis. Coal dealers and retailers who supply lump coal for home use normally maintain limited reserves. A lengthy rail or coal supply disruption or a prolonged period of extreme cold weather could deplete coal supply for home use and pose a threat to the health and safety of citizens.

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Relief organizations at the local level, under centralized direction, would need to assist needy families.

- D. If coal shortages are likely to occur, DMME, in cooperation with the VEOC, will coordinate with industry and utility representatives and the SCC to recommend how best to resolve any shortages of coal.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)

During periods of potential or actual coal shortages, DMME will:

- a. Receive and review reports submitted by the SCC, major industries that use coal, coal dealers, and local governments regarding impending coal shortages and potential consequences of continued reductions in supply.
- b. Keep the VEOC and state agencies informed as necessary about the status of coal when potential or actual shortages exist.
- c. Keep information resources available so the public may be fully informed on matters pertaining to a coal shortage.

2. Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

- a. Implement conservation measures, emergency rationing or allocation of coal supplies, or other control measures as needed in the event of a coal shortage.
- b. Coordinate with DMME to maintain the solid fuel (coal) part of this ESF.

3. State Corporation Commission (SCC)

When coal shortages are imminent, the SCC will:

- a. Keep DMME and the VEOC informed on the status of coal supplies held by electric utilities serving the state.
- b. Implement measures under the Virginia Energy Emergency Plan for Electricity that affects coal consumption at electrical power plants.
- c. Coordinate actions affecting coal with DMME and the VEOC.

4. Local Governments

- a. Include measures dealing with a coal shortage in their energy plan.
- b. Notify DMME and the VEOC when their citizens are unable to obtain coal from local dealers.
- c. Notify the local DSS when their citizens are unable to obtain coal from local dealers for heating or cooking purposes.
- d. Request all other assistance relating to coal shortages through the VEOC.
- e. Be prepared to provide mass care in heated buildings for citizens who are temporarily without home heating fuels.
- f. Coordinate the implementation of state voluntary and mandatory conservation and emergency management programs within their jurisdictions.

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5. Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
 - a. Contact rail carriers to identify causes of the transportation problems.
 - b. Implement plans to provide necessary supplies to critical coal burning facilities, such as utility and non-utility electric generating plants when rail shipments of coal are disrupted.

Reference:

Virginia State Cooperation Commission, Virginia Emergency Plan for Electricity

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Definitions:

- A. Capacity Deficiency – A situation wherein the system demand exceeds the utilities' resources.
- B. Commodity Manager, State – Individual or agency responsible for (1) establishing and maintaining liaison with energy industry and government points-of-contact to insure maximum advance warning of an energy resource shortage and (2) coordinating the implementation of state and/or federally required energy conservation measures in the event of an energy emergency.
- C. Firm Customers - Service from contracts or schedules under which the seller is expressly obligated to deliver specific volumes and which anticipates no interruptions. Residential service comes under this area.
- D. Interruptible Customers - Those customers receiving service based on a contract which allows them to be shut off by the utility after notification. These are usually large commercial and industrial users with alternate fuel capability.
- E. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) - Natural gas cooled and compressed to form a liquid. It reduces volume nearly 600-fold as it becomes a liquid, thereby making it suitable for storage and long-distance transportation in a container.
- F. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP Gas), Propane, Butane – A gas produced from petroleum hydrocarbons. Propane and butane are the most common forms of LP Gas. Propane is used as a substitute for natural gas in rural homes for heat, cooking, and power, in light industry as a process gas, in light vehicles, for gas logs, and for home barbecues. Most of the propane used in Virginia enters the state by rail and truck from pipeline terminals in other states. Difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies may stem from a natural gas shortage or transportation bottleneck.
- G. Load Shedding – The de-energizing of a distribution circuit by the power company to prevent overloading the system. This can be done manually at the various substations, if time permits. In addition, automatic load shedding (under-frequency relaying) is devised so that portions of the load will be dropped at three levels of declining frequency.
- H. Natural Gas - A naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons used for fuel (this consists mainly of methane, CH₄).
- I. Petroleum Products – Motor vehicle gasoline, distillate fuel, aviation fuel, diesel fuel, LP Gas, and residential fuel oil.
- J. Residential Usage - Gas used for normal purposes in maintaining permanent single and multi-family dwellings.
- K. Residual Fuel Oil – No. 5 and No. 6 (Bunker C) fuel oil that remains after distillation of a crude oil to obtain lighter components. This is used by utilities and industry for power generation or process steam. There are no distributors in Virginia. The users bring this product into the state for their own use. A shortage situation could force a conversion to other fuels and strict conservation until new supply sources could be found.